

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

HEARING

Pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06

(Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses)

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Jaden Hodgins, Dave Jewitt, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Steve Herold

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Johnson, Phil Alves

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the Hearing pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06 to order at 10:00 a.m. for consideration of Permit Application #2023-12.

Chair Vaughan stated the procedures for conducting the Hearing and asked Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Planning and Regulations Officer, to provide details on the application.

Ms. Tydd-Hrynyk advised that the subject property was located at 7512 Riverside Drive along north bank of the Ausable River. The entire property is located within a regulated area. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) has regulatory responsibility of the floodplain area under Ontario Regulation 147/06, but does allow for moderate additions of living space (up to a 30 per cent increase on an existing structure). However, no increase in size is permitted for new developments.

The property owner did request a property search and were aware of flooding risk when the property was purchased. In 2021, they made an application to replace the holding tank, which was approved.

In February 2023, ABCA staff were provided with plans to tear down and rebuild the dwelling. The original plans were for a three-story dwelling; however, the owner reduced the size for a two-story dwelling. This building is approximately a 122 per cent increase in size from the existing dwelling. As this is classified as a new development, no increase in size is permitted in regulated areas.

Ms. Tydd-Hrynyk advised that permitting this development would put a new structure at risk, which could have financial implications for the owners, may put emergency services at risk, and has the potential to aggravate flooding issues on neighbouring properties and dwellings. As such, ABCA staff recommend that this permit be denied.

Chair Vaughan asked Adam Johnson to present as the applicant. Mr. Johnson asked Phil Alves, the designer of the proposed dwelling, to assist in his presentation. He noted that the acceptable 30 per cent increase to the current dwelling did not add enough living space. They noted that the structure would be built on helical piers, which will support the structure, and that there would be no foundation. They also noted that the holding tank would accommodate the size and occupants of the dwelling. Mr. Johnson said that they would like to make this a year-round dwelling rather than a seasonal cottage.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 58/23

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 10:37 a.m. to discuss the information presented at the Hearing, with Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 59/23

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 10:52 a.m.

Carried.

Those in attendance at the Hearing were invited back into the meeting and the Chair asked the Board for a decision.

MOTION #BD 60/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors accept the staff recommendation to deny Permit Application #2023-12.”

Carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Jaden Hodgins, Dave Jewitt, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Steve Herold

STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Tracey McPherson, Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk, Mari Veliz

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement. She welcomed Dave Jewitt back to the ABCA Board of Directors as representative for the Municipality of Central Huron.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 61/23

**Moved Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the June 15, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting be approved,”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest at this meeting or from the previous meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 62/23

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 18, 2023 be adopted.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06 *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 2 *Applications for Permission* and 10 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, noted that ABCA staff are in talks with their lawyers about how to approach the numerous violations along the Lake Huron shoreline. There were no updates on current violations.

MOTION #BD 63/23

**Moved by Dave Jewitt
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors affirm the approval of applications as presented in Program Report # 1 – a) Development Review and receive the Violations and Appeals update as presented.”

Carried.

2. Conservation Authorities Act Update – Progress Report

Brian Horner, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, reported that the Quarterly Progress Report was completed and will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by the end of June. He also noted that ABCA staff had met with most municipal councils to discuss the Draft Cost Apportioning Agreements for Category 3 programs and services and to date, reception has been positive. Six agreements should be in place shortly. Board members asked what would happen if a municipality chose not to enter into an agreement. Brian noted that staff would need to come to the Board with some recommendations and the Board would need to decide on a course of action.

MOTION #BD 64/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Conservation Authorities Act Update be received as presented.”

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Elizabeth Balfour, Watershed Data Specialist, and Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator presented the Healthy Lake Huron program to the Board of Directors. Elizabeth noted that ABCA had been working with a number of other conservation authorities, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) for more than 10 years on initiatives in the priority subwatersheds along Lake Huron. This partnership has provided a platform to research and try innovative technologies for monitoring. Focus has been on peer-to-peer learning, and they have worked closely with the agricultural industry and leaned on their expertise. Davin reported that the Healthy Lake Huron groups is actively working with municipal drainage engineers to incorporate various green structures, such as sediment traps or two-stage ditch designs, directly into the Municipal Drainage Act.

MOTION #BD 65/23

**Moved by Greg Lamport
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the presentation on the Healthy Lake Huron program be received as presented for information purposes.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 66/23

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation meeting held on May 24, 2023 be approved as circulate.”

Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE

- a) Reference: Thank you letter from Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association
File: A.5
Brief: An email from Sue Haskett of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents Association, thanking Mari Veliz for her presentation at their Spring General Meeting, and for the staff work that went into the report. It has been included in their Water Quality Library as a resource for members.

- b) Reference: Letter of Confirmation from Central Huron
File: A.10.1
Brief: A letter from the Municipality of Central Huron confirming the appointment of Dave Jewitt to the ABCA Board of Directors, as approved by the Ministry of Nature Resources and Forestry.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Members have asked staff to bring a report on the planning policy regarding the size of additions on existing dwellings in regulated areas, and how it compares to other conservation authorities.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

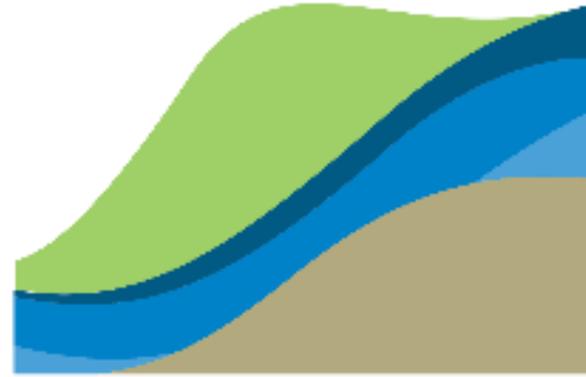
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

*Copies of program reports are available upon request.
Contact Abigail Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator*



Healthy Lake Huron

Clean Water, Clean Beaches

healthylakehuron.ca

Healthy Communities from Land to Lake

Elizabeth Balfour and Davin Heinbuck

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A river flows through the center, bordered by green trees. The surrounding area is a patchwork of green and brown agricultural fields. In the far distance, a large blue lake is visible under a cloudy sky.

Outline

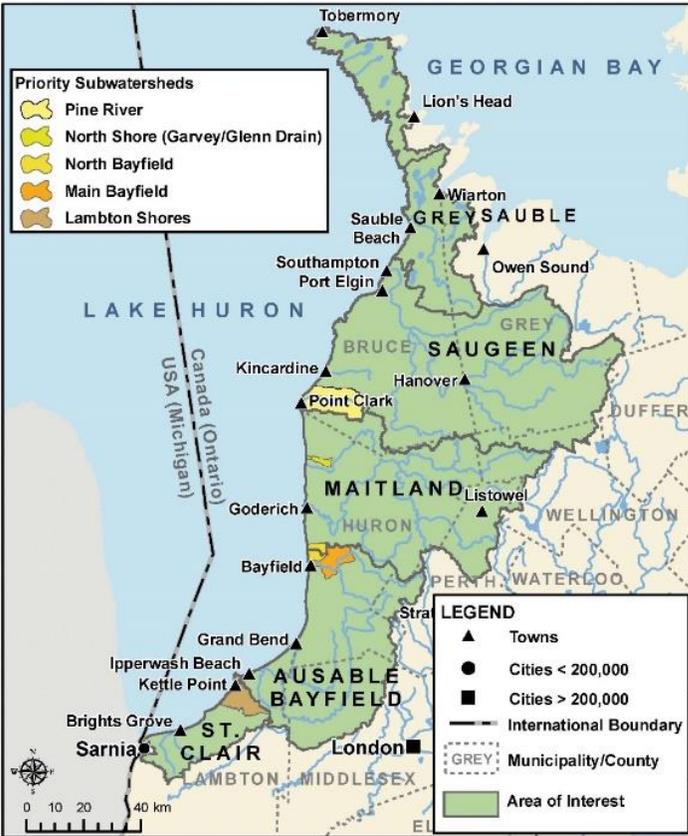
- Healthy Lake Huron
 - Introduction
 - Meaningful watershed-scale efforts
 - Best practice implementation, evaluation and communication
- Municipal Drain Linkages
 - Best practices
 - Review
 - Future opportunities
- Next Steps

Healthy Lake Huron

- Community supported response to nutrient enrichment and beach postings
- Co-chairs: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- 100's of projects completed
- Monitoring and evaluation is important
- Ongoing communications



Collaboration and Connection



Actions

Evaluation

People and Partnerships

Education and Awareness

Monitoring



Piece of the Puzzle

- Social Media Campaign
 - Individual pieces (land, lake, people) as a whole
- Monitoring
 - Priority subwatersheds
 - Field edge
- Knowledge Transfer
 - Landowners, scientists/researchers, industry experts



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Rural ACTions

Urban ACTions

- Buffers
- Two-stage ditches

- Stormwater ponds

- Grassed waterways
- Berms

- Rain gardens
- Rain barrels

- Minimum/No-till
- Cover crops

- Less pavement
- Natural cover



Best Management Practice Evaluation

- **Structural BMPs:**

- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Grassed Filter Strip

- **Management BMPs:**

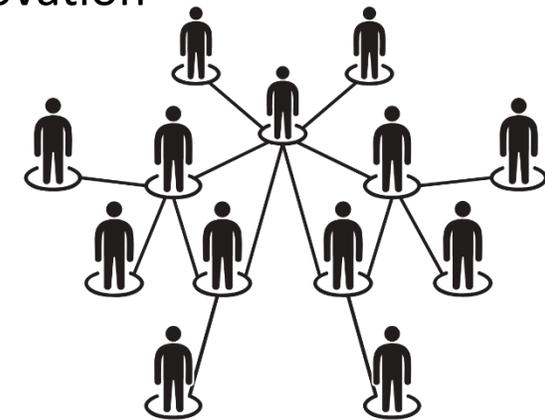
- Nutrient management
- Conservation tillage
- Cover crops



Working with the Agricultural Landscape

- Cover crops

- Demonstrations that promote experimentation and innovation
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Industry partnerships



Green Infrastructure



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A river flows through the center, bordered by green trees. The surrounding area is a patchwork of green and brown agricultural fields. In the far distance, a large blue lake is visible under a sky with scattered white clouds.

Outline

- Healthy Lake Huron
 - Introduction
 - Meaningful watershed-scale efforts
 - Best practice implementation, evaluation and communication
- Municipal Drain Linkages
 - Best practices
 - Review
 - Future opportunities
- Next Steps

Better practices, better drains, better Lake

- New Petition Drain and Drainage Improvements (Sections 4 and 78)
 - Water and Sediment Control Basins
 - Grassed waterways
 - Offline ponds
 - Buffers
- Drain Maintenance (Section 74)
 - Spot Cleanout
 - Maintain Natural Features (i.e., riffles/pools, meanders etc.)
 - Sediment traps
 - Two-stage ditch or narrow channel



Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoBs)



- D.A. Section 78 improvement
- Addresses erosion occurring through surface runs
- WASCoBs with surface inlets installed along the drain to reduce surface flow and erosion (Van Beets Drain, Steenstra Drain)

Sediment Traps

- Highly erodible area
- Frequent maintenance required
- Installed to minimize sediment movement downstream
- Online or offline



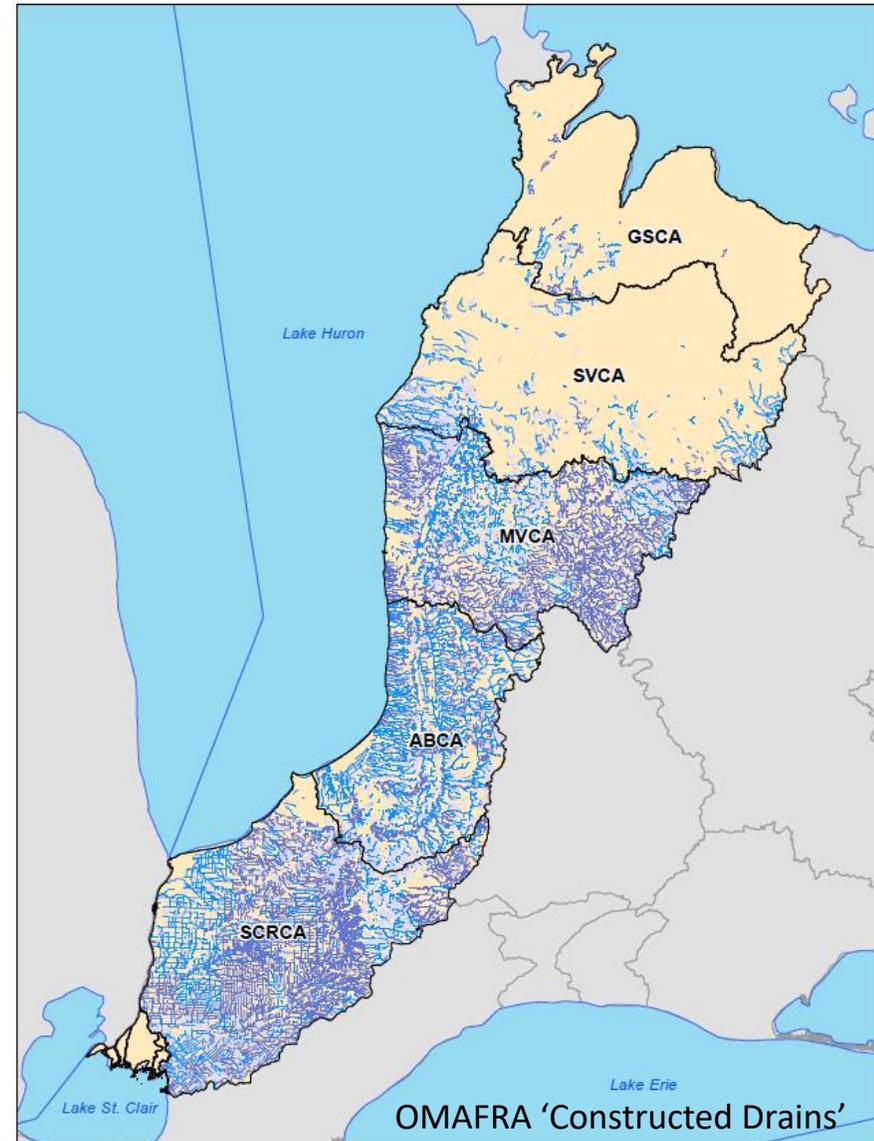
Buffers

- D.A. Section 4, 74 and 78
- The root system of established vegetation stabilizes stream banks.
- Prevents surface water (sheet erosion) from adjacent fields.
- Where low runs, or draws, connect fields to the watercourse, buffers limit soil loss and bank erosion.



Municipal Drain Maintenance Permit Review

- Drainage intensity reflects geography and land use
- 2016 to 2020 Municipal drain maintenance permits
 - Rural Green Infrastructure
 - Focus on cleanouts (331 across HLH watersheds)
- Cleanout “hotspots”
- Interviews – cleanout best practices



Results from five Conservation Authorities

331 permits for Drain Maintenance (2016-2020)

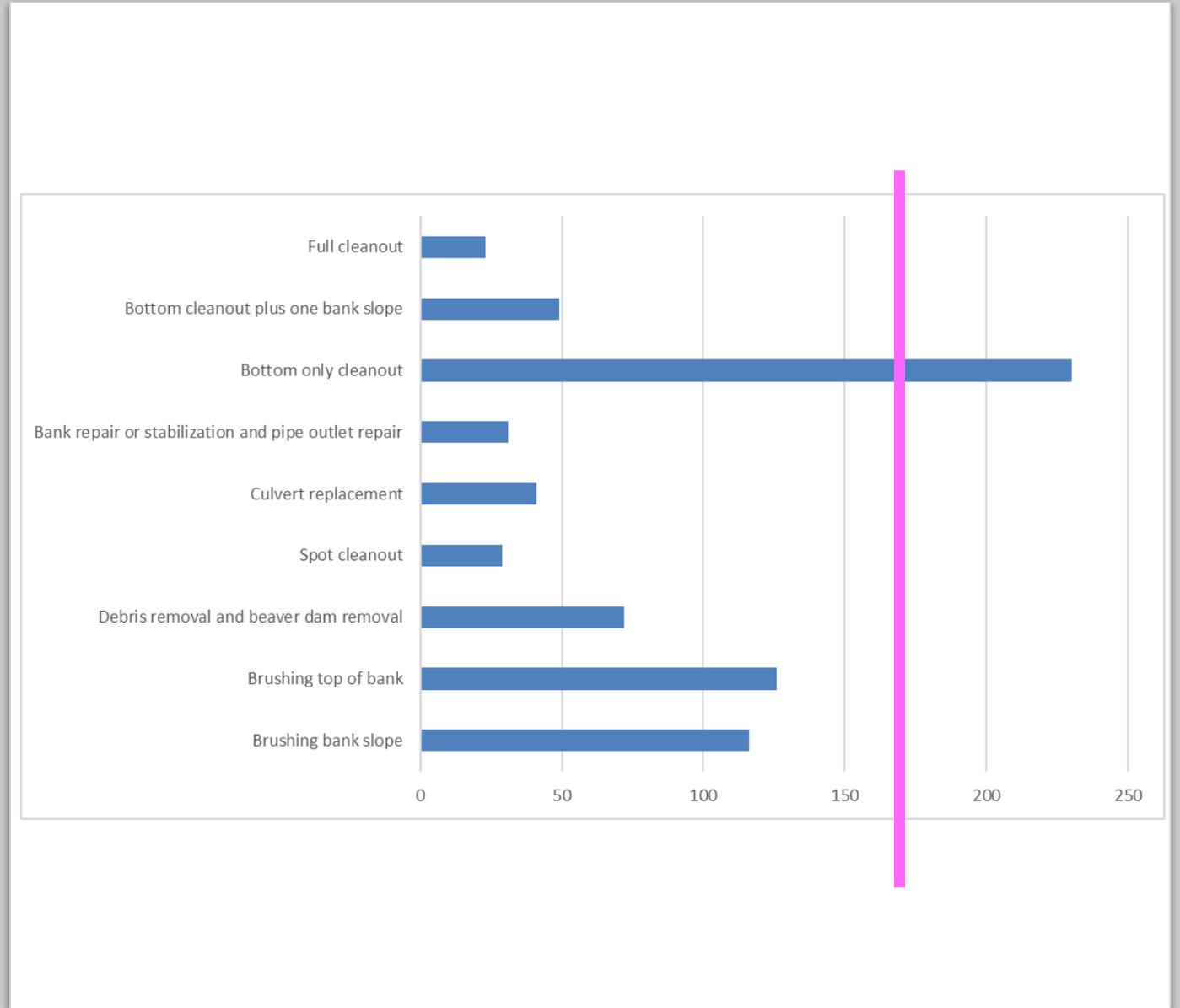
Most prevalent activity under maintenance was drain cleanouts.

Some municipalities had more activity.

Cleanout best practices:

- Maintaining natural features
- Spot cleanouts
- Sediment traps
- Two stage ditch or narrow channel

Goal of 50 % 



Going Forward - Collaborate to Build Better Programs

- Continued working relationship with commodity groups and industry (i.e., DART, DAWG, Land Drainage Committee, LICO, Innovative Farmers)
- Developing best practice indicators
- Drain Walks
- Educating shoreline/urban communities



Healthy Lake Huron Drain Tour



Thanks!
Questions?

